Pity tiot hdllour'd age for his white beard, He's an usurer: Strike me the counterfeit matron ; It is her habit only that is honest, Herself s & bawd : Let not the virgin's cheek Make soft thy trenchant sword[6]; for those milk-paps, That through the window-bars bore at men's eyes[7],

6 —thy TRENCHANT sword;] So, in Philemon Holland's translation of the ninth Book of Pliny's Natural History, 1601, p. 237 : " — they all to cut and hacke them with their *trenchant* teeth ;—-" See note on Macbeth, vol. xi. p. S71, n. 5. STEEVENS.

7 That through the window-bars bore at men's eyes,] The virgin that shows her bosom through the lattice of her chamber.

JOHNSON.

Dr. Johnson's explanation is almost confirmed by the following passage in Cymbeline:

"------or let her beauty
" *Look through* a casement *to allure Jake hearts,*
" And be false with them."

Shakspeare at the same time might aim a stroke at this indecency itf the wantons of his own time,, which is also animadverted on by several contemporary dramatists. So, in the ancient interlude of The Repentance of Marie Magdalene, 1567 :

*e Your garment roust be worne alway,
" That your *white pappes* may be scene if you may.—
" If young gentlemen may see your white skin,
" It will allure them to love, and soon bring them in.
<e Both damsels and wives use many such feates.
" I know them that will lay out *their faireteates.*" All this is addressed to Mary M'agdalen. To the same purpose, Jovius Pontanus :

Nam quid lacteolos sinus, et ipsas
Prse te fens sine linteo papillas ?
Hoc est dicere, posce, posce, trado,
Hoc est ad Venerem vocare amantes.

STEEVENS. Our author has again the same kind of imagery in his Lover's Complaint:

" ~~:'. i——•~~ spite of heaven's fell rage,
" Some *beauty* peep'd through *lattice* of fear'd age." I do not believe any particular satire was here intended. Lady Suffolk, Lady Somerset, and many of the celebrated beauties of the time' of James I. are thus represented in their pictures; nor werfethey, I imagine, thought more reprehensible than the ladies of the present day, who from the same extravagant pursuit of what is called fashion, run inta an opposite extreme. MALONE.